

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant responds herein to the Office Action dated April 12, 2006.

Applicants note and appreciate the allowance of claims 9-14 and 18.

Claims 2-7 stand rejected as being anticipated by Ouchi (5,897,487). In particular, the Examiner claims that Ouchi discloses all of the limitations of independent claim 4. Applicants respectfully disagree, and request reconsideration.

Independent claim 4 of the present application relates to an endoscopic hood including a cylindrical hood main body and an illumination light leading portion wherein “the illumination light leading portion has at least one hole formed on a circumferential wall surface of the protruding portion.”

Ouchi, as understood by Applicants, relates to a front end hood fixably secured to, or detachable from, a front end portion of an endoscope. More specifically, Ouchi discloses a front end hood 3 made of an optically transparent material with a trumpet-like shape which is attached to a front end portion on the endoscope. Ouchi discloses that an angular groove 4 is formed on the front end of the front end of the hood 3 to circumscribe the periphery thereof. The groove 4 is adapted to receive a loop 12 of a ligature loop wire 10 in order to facilitate the detachment of the loop 12 from the angular groove 4. A guide notch 5 is provided on the front end of the loop and the end portion of the ligature loop wire 10 passes through the guide notch. That is, Ouchi discloses that the hood includes a notch 5 formed in a periphery thereof. See Ouchi, column 3, line 37 - column 4, line 8 and Fig. 4.

Ouchi, however, does not disclose an endoscopic hood with a cylindrical hood main body and an illumination light leading portion wherein “the illumination light leading portion has at least one hole formed on a circumferential wall surface of the protruding portion”, as is required by independent claim 4 of the present application for example. One example of a hole in the present application can be seen in Fig. 5 for example.

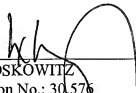
Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 4, and the claims depending therefrom, including claims 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7, are patentable over the cited art for at least the reasons described above.

In light of the remarks made herein, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-7 are in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the application, allow the claims and pass this case to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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